

The minutes reflect the impressions of the writer, of the discussions and proposals and are not intended to imply or announce policy or directives. Refer to the specifications to determine MDT requirements.

March 28, 2007
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

Glen Frost opened the meeting with introductions. MCA pointed out the anti-trust policy on page two of the meeting notice, and reminded members to read and abide by the policy.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Summary of Specification Revisions.** MDT advised that numerous proposed revisions were in the process and no new revisions were sent out for comment.
- 2. Facilities/Building Construction.** MDT asked that MCA keep their building Contractors involved in discussions and specification issues for these types of projects (Rest areas, Weigh Stations etc.). The Anaconda rest area will be in the April letting and will have specific Buy America requirements.
- 3. Embankment in Place.** MDT will be expanding the use for some projects. The current guideline is for projects up to about 20,000 cubic meters. It may be considered for some projects up to about 85,000 cubic meters.

NEW BUSINESS FROM MCA

- 1. EPM Decision Making Authority.** MCA asked what the EPM authority is for making decisions when a variance from the specifications is requested (used the temperature requirements for applying mastic on pipe example). MDT advised that the EPM's are to ensure the specifications are followed. If a change is requested, as in the example given, there is a process that can be followed but the specifications are not to be ignored.
- 2. Working Days in Winter.** MDT is looking at a specification revision that maintains the intent but would allow some flexibility.
- 3. Plan Holders List.** At the present time Contractors can call in and get the information but MDT is not publishing the list. FHWA recommends against publishing the list. MDT will continue to look at this issue.
- 4. EPM not listed on Projects.** MCA asked that EPM's be listed for projects prior to bidding. MDT is not currently listing them, and often doesn't know who will be assigned at that stage. Often they are switched later for staffing and manpower reasons which causes problems. A formal decision has not been made, but it is likely that they will not be listed in the future.
- 5 Lump Sum Traffic Control.** MCA asked if FHWA has made an interpretation on the use of lump sum (rulemaking). An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- 6> Future Projects Schedule.** MCA advised that the information has changed, it is too generic (type of construction) and there is very little detail. MDT advised that preliminary quantities are on the web site, and will look into the change and what can be done.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Mobilization.** The special provision placing a cap on the percent that can be bid for mobilization is on hold and was removed from the Transportation Commission agenda. The mobilization supplemental specification will be effective with the March letting.
- 2. Substructure.** This item will be removed from the agenda.
- 3. Spec Distribution Process.** This item will be removed from the agenda.

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4. DEQ Violations. MDT met with DEQ to discuss ways to work together for better coordination and communication. It was a very productive meeting. MDT reminded MCA that there is a difference between a violation letter and enforcement action. DEQ indicated they will attempt to contact the appropriate personnel and advise of violations before leaving the project. DEQ has a new policy effective April 1, 2007 requiring a single permittee. MDT will have a special provision to deal with this requirement on all projects beginning with the April letting. MCA indicated that there is a bill before the legislature concerning this issue. MDT asked if they had, or could get a bill number to send that to MDT.

5. Asphalt Adjustment. MDT requested written comments addressing the concerns.

6. Micro-Deval. MDT explained the proposed process for using the Micro-deval test and then using sulfate soundness when the Micro-deval results fall into a questionable range. Micro-deval is the preferred test and solves two main problems; the repeatability and the turn-around time. A draft specification will be distributed for comment.

7. Grade S RAP Specification. MCA submitted a couple of names to be on the committee working out the details. Others interested should contact Scott Barnes.

8. Buy America. MDT is looking at the 5-day requirement. A draft specification revision will be distributed for comment.

New Meeting Times It was decided that meetings will no longer be the Wednesday before the letting. Contractors are submitting mostly electronic bids and coming to Helena the day before causes problems with making last minute changes.

Meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to 11:00.

The next meeting will be May 9, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the MCA Office.